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Governor Doyle Announces Wisconsin to Receive \$24.4 Million in Homeland Security Funds

Governor Doyle today announced that Wisconsin will receive \$24,431,000 in federal Homeland Security funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for 2006.

"Homeland security is a top priority here in Wisconsin, and we've worked hard to make sure our first responders are well-equipped and well-trained, that critical infrastructure is secured, and that Wisconsin citizens are well-informed," Governor Doyle said. "But any good preparedness plan is never static, and this funding ensures that Wisconsin's homeland security efforts will be ongoing."

Although the funding was nearly \$10 million less than the \$34 million in funds awarded in Federal Fiscal Year 2005, the Governor noted that overall federal funding to states decreased in 2006 from \$2.36 billion to \$1.67 billion.

In 2006 DHS used a competitive system rather than the formula allocation to all states used in previous years. Under the old formula allocation, Wisconsin would have received \$1,355,400 less in 2006. DHS based its awards on threat, vulnerability, consequence (the potential impact of a particular attack), asset-based risk, geographically-based risk, and peer review (review of Wisconsin's application by the 55 other states and territories).

"We welcome the new Department of Homeland Security allocation process which incorporates risk and the strength of our application in determining funding levels," said Office of Justice Assistance Executive Director David Steingraber. "This process affords us an opportunity to focus on high priority strategic initiatives."

The funding is broken down as follows:

- State Homeland Security Grant Program, \$8,710,000;
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), \$8,570,000;
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), \$6,330,000;
- Metropolitan Medical Response System, \$464,700; and
- Citizen Corps Program, \$357,000.

With the award from DHS, the Office of Justice Assistance, in conjunction with the Governor's Homeland Security Council, plans to:

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- Establish regional homeland security public and private partnerships;
- Implement a State Communications Interoperability Plan;
- Protect high risk infrastructure sectors and assets;
- Sustain and enhance regional emergency response task forces;
- Continue to implement NIMS and NRP (National Response Plan);
- Develop a State Information and Intelligence Sharing Structure;
- Develop State Emergency Management GIS;
- Improve regional EMS mass casualty response capabilities;
- Sustain and expand the Citizen Corps program;
- Improve mass shelter and evacuation capabilities; and
- Expand information sharing through the Justice Gateway.

Over the next 60 days the Office of Justice Assistance will make adjustments to the budget of the requested amount of \$34,822,000.